



Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 – 7:30 a.m. Zoom Meeting

Present: Allen Hendriks, Angie Eggum, Ryan Langemeier, Mike Chandler, Mike Funk, Jeff Woodside, Kevin Miland, Rita Moyer, Shari Jensen and Geri Jensen

Absent:, George Gonzalez, Beau Hartman, Bobbie Jacobs, Heather Lee

Welcome:

- Mike Chandler called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Consent Items:

- June Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. No questions or comments. Jeff Woodside made a motion to approve the May Minutes. Seconded by Rita Moyer. Motion carried.
- June Chamber Financial Reports were presented. No questions or comments. Angie Eggum made a motion to approve the May financials. Seconded by Mike Funk. Motion carried.

Committee Updates:

- Chamber Foundation: Due to scheduling conflicts, has not met as a group since 4/9. Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 13th at 7:30 a.m.
- Ag Committee: Agriculture Committee –Donation letter for 4-H Livestock Auction was sent out June 11th. The Auction will be in person, at the Fairgrounds on August 7th. The Ag Breakfast is Saturday, August 7th at 8 a.m. – volunteers are needed
- Ambassadors – Met several times in July, in preparation for the Annual Golf Outing. The Annual Ambassador Golf Outing was held on Monday, July 19th. It was a beautiful day, and the event went well. We have received a lot of positive feedback. We raised \$10,000 for scholarships; got 4 new Chamber members; and, had a net profit of \$2,044 for the Chamber. Ribbon Cuttings were held at: MercyOne, July 21st; and, Hearing Associates, July 21st.
- Business & Education Collaborative and HR: Business Ed holds training sessions for businesses and Future Forward (work with John Double). Local HR Group is a way to link and share with groups. Social Media Breakfast is held at the City Council Room with guest speakers.
- Governmental Affairs Committee – Last met July 8th. – County, City, Legislative, and Watershed updates were given. There was further discussion on the Clean Cars Initiative and the Hwy 65-Main Street Project. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 12th at 9 a.m.
- Worksite Wellness and Blue Zones: SHIP was approved for funding for a 5-year grant period. Family Bike Rodeo possibly this fall. Lana will be at the Fair promoting tobacco substance abuse. Walking Challenge can be done whenever. Worksites could take part in the challenge. Real Age Test: Can be taken on-line. Discussion will be held further in August. Need 350 individuals to complete the community survey. Site visit by Marshal County, Indiana. Week of August 16 or the 23rd. Ellen asked Robyn Joel to be a representative.

- Community Resiliency Committee – Last meeting was held July 15th. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 19th. Submitted and received a \$2,500 grant to fund some dementia initiatives the Committee is working on. Hosted a ‘Dementia Friendly Freeborn County’ kick-off event at Wedgewood Cove on July 22nd. Over 25 community leaders were in attendance and are very receptive to doing their part to make our community Dementia Friendly. (Recap of session is attached.) The monthly Mental Health presentation, “Minding Your Mental Health Through COVID” that was being offered on the 22nd of every month, is now, out-of-date. Shari has met with NAMI to create some new presentations that will be available to our businesses and the community.
- Business After Hours (BAH) - Networking Events – Started again this month. The first one was held at MercyOne on Friday, July 23rd, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. – 7 members showed up. Hosts and sponsors are wanted for future events. A flyer has been made and will be included in weekly e-blasts. Elaine reached out to the Tribune to see if they would like to host in December, but they weren’t sure. - The Historical Society is interested in hosting in December. Something new that we’re adding to our BAH events this year, is a 50/50 drawing. This will be a fundraising effort for the Chamber, and we feel it will also encourage folks to attend and stick around for the drawing.

○

New Business:

- Parade & Fireworks – We are requesting to have the parade and the fireworks hold on the 3rd of July rather than the 4th for the fireworks. When we went and met with fire and police, it is really a lot to put on them to shut down roads and then have extra manpower for both of those days. So, if we would be able to do all of it in one day.
- Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting will be October 7th at Wedgewood Cove. Shari asked for ideas on guest speaker. We have had Mike Kutzke the last few years. Shari mention instead of doing a silent auction this year, we are going to be doing Ticket Bucket. So we will be selling ticket for them to put in a bucket of there choice.

Other Topic to Discuss:

- Send out calendar reminders to the Chamber Board and Ambassadors for Business After Hours.
- We need representative from the Chamber Board and Ambassadors at the Chamber Events.

Adjourn: Motion by Mike Funk to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jeff Woodside.